

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
obtaining a pre-formed semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface, wherein the external surface defines an external surface area of the semi-permeable container;
obtaining a metallic layer;
placing the metallic layer directly against the external surface; and
melting at least a portion of the external surface beneath the metallic layer to fuse the external surface to the metallic layer, wherein the metallic layer covers an area on the external surface less than the external surface area so that a remainder of the external surface area is exposed, wherein the metallic layer acts as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the container.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a plastic bottle.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a plastic pharmaceutical bottle.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes an IV bag.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-permeable container includes a plastic-wrapped food package.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising coupling a printed layer onto the metallic layer prior to melting the at least a portion of the external surface.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the metallic layer includes metallized polyester.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method for applying a label to a pre-formed container, comprising:

- cutting a metallic layer to form a metallic label;
- placing the metallic label against a polymeric external surface of a pre-formed semi-permeable container;
- heating the metallic label to a temperature at which at least a portion of the external surface of the pre-formed semi-permeable container in contact with the metallic label is melted; and
- cooling the metallic label and pre-formed semi-permeable container below the temperature to fuse the melted portion of the external surface of the semi-permeable container to the metallic label; wherein the metallic label acts as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the pre-formed semi-permeable container.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the metallic label and pre-formed semi-permeable container are cooled below the temperature by dipping the metallic label and pre-formed semi-permeable container into a liquid so that the metallic label and external surface of the pre-formed semi-permeable container contact the liquid.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the temperature is between about 80 degrees Fahrenheit and about 150 degrees Fahrenheit.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the temperature is about 105 degrees Fahrenheit.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein a printer layer is coupled to an exterior face of the metallic label prior to the heating of the metallic label to the temperature.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein a bonding agent is provided between the printed layer and the exterior face of the metallic label to couple the printed layer to the exterior face of the metallic label.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein a bonding agent is provided between a printed layer and an exterior face of the metallic label, and wherein the heating of the metallic label melts the bonding agent to couple the printed layer to the exterior face of the metallic label.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the metallic label covers only a portion of the external surface of the pre-formed semi-permeable container such that a remainder of the external surface of the external surface is exposed.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the pre-formed semi-permeable container is not deformed during the heating of the metallic label.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the pre-formed semi-permeable container is not burned during the heating of the metallic label.

33. (Previously Presented) A method for applying a label to a pre-formed container, comprising:

- obtaining a pre-formed semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface;
- obtaining a metallic label capable of acting as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants;
- placing the metallic label against the polymeric external surface of the pre-formed semi-permeable container; and
- melting at least a portion of the polymeric external surface beneath the metallic label to fuse the polymeric external surface to the metallic layer, the metallic label acting as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the pre-formed semi-permeable container.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the metallic label is capable of preventing at least one of an ink and an adhesive in communication with an exterior surface of the metallic label from migrating into the pre-formed semi-permeable container and thereby help prevent contamination by the at least one of the ink and the adhesive of items contained in the pre-formed semi-permeable container.

35. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

obtaining a pre-formed semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface and an overall contour, wherein the external surface defines an external surface area of the semi-permeable container;

obtaining a metallic layer;

placing the metallic layer directly against the external surface; and

melting at least a portion of the external surface beneath the metallic layer to fuse the external surface to the metallic layer without deforming the overall contour of the container so that the container retains substantially the same overall contour after fusing with the metallic layer, wherein the metallic layer covers an area on the external surface less than the external surface area so that a remainder of the external surface area is exposed, wherein the metallic layer acts as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the container.

Please add the following new claim:

36. (New) A method, comprising:

obtaining a pre-formed semi-permeable polymeric pharmaceutical bottle having a generally rigid overall external contour;

obtaining a metallic layer;

placing the metallic layer directly against an external surface of the semi-permeable polymeric pharmaceutical bottle; and

melting at least a portion of the external surface beneath the metallic layer to fuse the external surface to the metallic layer without deforming the overall contour of the semi-permeable polymeric pharmaceutical bottle so that the semi-permeable polymeric pharmaceutical bottle retains substantially the same overall contour after fusing with the metallic layer, wherein the metallic layer covers a portion of area on the external surface so that a remainder of the external surface is exposed, wherein the metallic layer acts as a barrier to help prevent passage therethrough of contaminants into the semi-permeable polymeric pharmaceutical bottle.